

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, after the title insert:

**--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention--;

Amend paragraph 1 as follows:

--The invention pertains to a strip-casting machine [according to the features of the introductory clause of Claim 1] with two casting rolls.

After the first paragraph insert:

--2. Description of the Related Art--;

Page 3, before the last paragraph insert:

**--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;**

Page 4, delete the second paragraph.

Page 4, amend the third paragraph as follows:

--[The] In accordance with the invention, the side plate can be moved downward by the carrier element in a straight line, either vertically or at an angle or along a curve. the carrier element is advantageously designed as a support arm. The support arm can swivel around an axis or move along a curve. Underneath the machine, the side plate on the support arm can be replaced with a new side plate and moved back along the same route to the setting position. It must be kept in mind that the term "setting position" includes all positions of the plate located between the casting position and the replacement position. According to an exemplary embodiment,

it is possible in a first step of the operation for the support arm to shift the side plate away from the standard essentially in a horizontal direction, i.e., in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the casting rolls. This shifting of the side plate can occur along a horizontal displacement path which can be, for example, on a plane underneath the casting rolls. In a second step of the movement, the support arm with the side plate can then be shifted downward in a direction essentially parallel to the end surfaces of the casting rolls.--

Page 7, before the third paragraph, insert:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 7, before the last paragraph insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;